



**The State Bar
of California**

**OFFICE OF CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL
INTAKE**

845 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

213-765- 1182

Arizvel.Chaudhari@calbar.ca.gov

September 4, 2019

Adrian Riskin
1101 W 51st Place
Los Angeles CA 90037

RE: Case Number: 19-O-13431

Dear Adrian Riskin:

The State Bar's Office of Chief Trial Counsel has reviewed your complaint against Carol Ann Humiston to determine whether there are sufficient grounds to prosecute a possible violation of the State Bar Act and/or Rules of Professional Conduct.

You have stated that you have made requests for information under the California Public Records Act from a Business Improvement District in Los Angeles. You indicate that Ms. Carol Ann Humiston is responsible for responding to such requests. You alleged that Ms. Humiston counseled her client to violate the law on at least three occasions. You overall indicate Ms. Humiston has made your requests for information trying by giving the organization certain counsel. You provide emails relating to your C.P.R.A. requests, emails to which you are not a party. You mention some of these emails were provided to you as part of a C.P.R.A. production. You are unclear as to the source of all of the emails, which is concerning.

Based on our evaluation of the information provided, we are closing your complaint due to the confidential nature of the attorney-client relationship. We have determined that you are complaining about the attorney's performance of duties owed to a client and not to you. An inquiry by the State Bar into your allegation(s) against Carol Ann Humiston could potentially interfere with the attorney-client relationship. In response to our inquiry, the attorney would have to assert the confidentiality of the attorney-client relationship, and the State Bar would not be able to make a determination in the matter.

California attorneys have a duty to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and this state, including the laws governing C.P.R.A. requests. However, the State Bar is not a trier of fact and cannot make a determination as to the facts and merits of this matter, such as whether the reply to your C.P.R.A. request was proper. A civil court having jurisdiction is the appropriate venue to make any legal and factual findings regarding the propriety of the response to your C.P.R.A. request, and to issue any remedies. The State Bar cannot offer you legal advice. As a result, you may wish to consult with an attorney to determine what options may be available to you.

For these reasons, the State Bar is closing this matter.

If you have new facts and circumstances that you believe may change our determination to close your complaint, you may submit a written statement with the new information to the Intake Unit for review. If you have any questions about this process, you may call Deputy Trial Counsel Arizvel Chaudhari at 213-765-1182. If you leave a voice message, be sure to clearly identify the lawyer complained of, the inquiry number assigned, and your telephone number including the area code. We should return your call within two business days.

If you are not aware of new facts or circumstances but otherwise disagree with the decision to close your complaint, you may submit a request for review by the State Bar's Complaint Review Unit, which will review your complaint and the Intake Unit's decision to close the complaint. The Complaint Review Unit may reopen your complaint if it determines that your complaint was inappropriately closed or that you presented new, significant evidence to support your complaint. To request review by the Complaint Review Unit, you must submit your request **in writing**, together with any new evidence you wish to be considered, post-marked within **90 days of the date of this letter**, to:

The State Bar of California
Complaint Review Unit
Office of General Counsel
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1617

We would appreciate if you would complete a short, anonymous survey about your experience with filing your complaint. While your responses to the survey will not change the outcome of the complaint you filed against the attorney, the State Bar will use your answers to help

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improve the services we provide to the public. The survey can be found at
<http://bit.ly/StateBarSurvey1>.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arizvel Chaudhari', written in a cursive style.

Arizvel Chaudhari
Deputy Trial Counsel

AC